



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 20 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. John Howard, Jr.  
Chair  
National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology  
Vinson & Elkins, LLP  
2801 Via Fortuna, Suite 100  
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear Mr. Howard:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's further progress toward enhancing its environmental technology programs, making them as effective as possible in promoting research, development, commercialization, and adoption of sustainable technologies.

In my last letter to you on this subject, dated December 19, 2006, I described some of the steps EPA has taken that embrace the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology's recommendations. Progress continues in each of these areas:

- **Senior Environmental Technology Officer.** An interim SETO has been appointed, and a search committee to select a permanent SETO is being developed. The position is and will be a focal point for environmental technology.
- **Environmental Technology Council.** The ETC has made progress in facilitating the use of technology to address pressing environmental problems. These activities will be highlighted at the 2008 EPA Science Forum. The Forum's theme this year is *Innovative Technologies – Key to Environmental and Economic Progress*.
- **Regional Environmental Technology Advocacy Network.** RETAN was established and held its first meeting last month in Chicago. The Network will facilitate communication within and across EPA regions and foster collaborative exchanges in the area of environmental technology.
- **Environmental Technology Assessment, Verification, and Outcomes Staff.** The ETAVOS has been established in the EPA Office of Research and Development and will provide support to the SETO, the Agency, and the public in increasing the availability of technology performance information.



The May 2007 NACEPT recommendations build upon and refine the previous recommendations and provide useful direction for EPA's maturing technology infrastructure. These include:

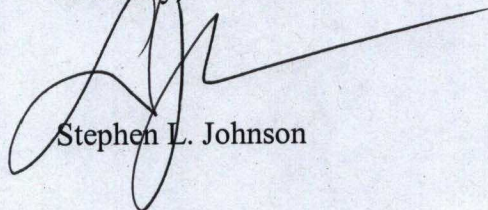
- Emphasizing the importance of partnerships, including working with other federal agencies, states, and tribes, to improve efficiency and streamline acceptance of environmental technologies;
- Encouraging market demand for environmental technologies;
- Where possible, harmonizing regulations and standards across the globe to increase environmental protection and improve efficiency of technology adoption; and
- The importance of making the SETO position a focal point for environmental technology.

We appreciate these recommendations and believe they are broadly applicable across the continuum of EPA technology programs. I will ask the Agency Science Advisor to further identify opportunities to support new technology development and adoption. The Science Advisor intends to convene the ETC and focus the Council discussion on developing an Agency-wide environmental technology support plan.

NACEPT has also highlighted the pressing need to develop new technologies to respond to global climate change. Consistent with NACEPT's recommendations, EPA will continue to develop strategic domestic and international partnerships to reduce greenhouse gas intensity and promote greenhouse gas-reducing technologies, both through the development of novel technologies and by encouraging the adoption of more mature technologies.

I understand that a third report from NACEPT's Environmental Technology Subcommittee will be released in 2008. We look forward to receiving the report and anticipate further productive interaction with NACEPT.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Johnson

cc:

Marcus Peacock, Deputy Administrator  
George Gray, Agency Science Advisor  
Rafael DeLeon, Director, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management  
Phil Helgersen, Chair, Environmental Technology Subcommittee  
Pai-Yei Whung, Chief Scientist, Office of the Science Advisor  
Jeff Heimerman, Interim SETO, Office of the Science Advisor

*John -  
Thanks for your  
partnership!  
Steve*